

STUDY GUIDE

WAR AND PEACE 06.13.21

[set up]

Think about sitcom marriages. Which is your favorite couple and why?

Refer to the diagram below used in the message on Sunday.

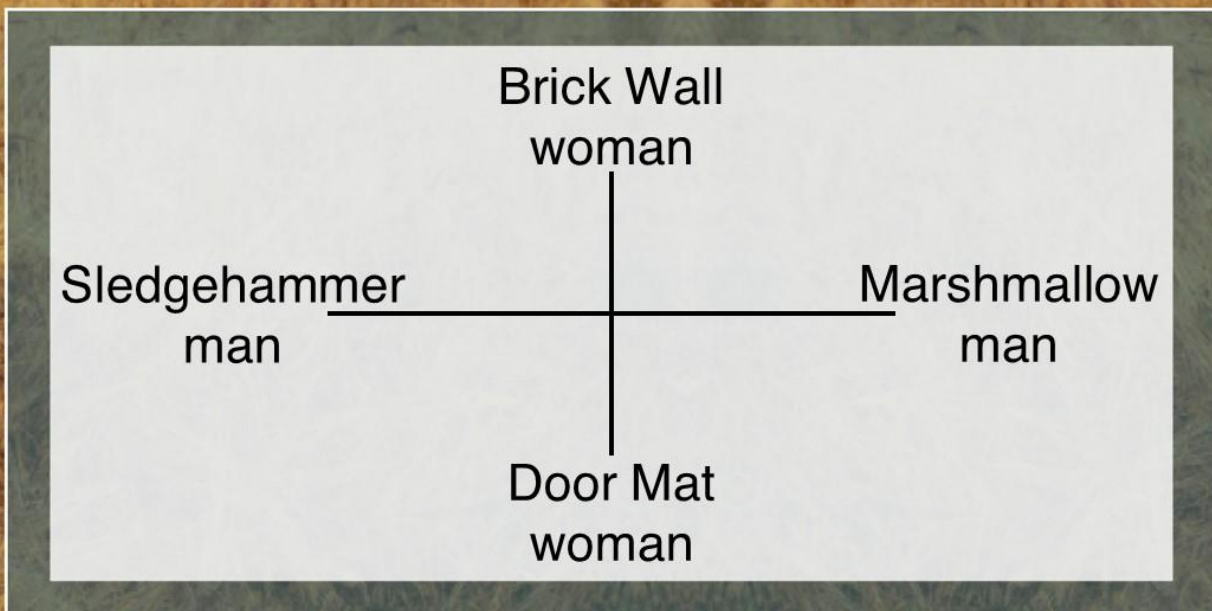
Quadrant 1: There's the brick wall / sledgehammer quadrant for marriage.

Quadrant 2: There's the brick wall / marshmallow quadrant for marriage.

Quadrant 3: There's the door mat / sledgehammer quadrant for marriage.

Quadrant 4: There's the door mat / marshmallow quadrant for marriage.

Into which quadrant would you place your favorite sitcom marriage? Why?



[digging deeper]

Read Ephesians 5:18, 21-33 in the ESV.

Read Ephesians 5:18, 21-33 in another version (like the NIV, the Message, the New Living Translation, the Amplified Bible, or the Living Bible).

Ask someone in the group to share the truths in the passage in his or her own words. (The rest of the group can fill in any gaps that may be missing.)

Ask, "What does this passage tell us about God?"

Ask, "What does this passage tell us about ourselves?"

Rick talked about the importance of husbands "leading with tenderness" and wives "yielding with strength." What do you like about those concepts as expressions for the roles of husbands and wives in the marriage has taught in Ephesians 5? How would you improve those concepts?

Explain how marriage is a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church and how it can help all of us, even singles, celebrate the gospel.

[living it out]

In order for people in the group to live more faithfully in the "peace zone," ask everyone in the group to craft an "I will..." statement. Ask each person to share that statement with the group.

Pair up for closing prayer. Ask each person to pray that God will enable their prayer partner to fulfill their "I will" statement. (Include praying for one another's "Who's Your One?" friend and praying that the Lord of light will send forth laborers from within CVC to help people walking in darkness to come to the light of Christ.)